

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SY-02 SCCT-01 OPR-01 MMS-01 SP-02

INR-05 A-01 PER-01 ABF-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-03 SCA-01

NSC-05 NSCE-00 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/MGT:KDACKERMAN:MBB

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

ARA/APU:FVORTIZ(DRAFT)

A/SY:VFSTMARS (SUBSTANCE)

S/CCT:JNGATCH (INFO)

----- 054328

P 141644Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057490

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, AR

SUBJECT:SECURITY FOR AMERICANS

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 1616; (B) BUENOS AIRES 1488

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM BOWDLER

1. YOUR DETAILED AND THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE UNDER REF (A) INDICATING THAT EVERY ASPECT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION AFFECTING THE U.S. MISSION AND ITS EMPLOYEES IS BEING REVIEWED TO MINIMIZE EMBASSY'S VULNERABILITY TO THE TERRORIST THREAT, IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE PERSONAL INTEREST AND CONCERN YOU HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN IN THIS SERIOUS MATTER.

2. THE EGAN MURDER HAS DISPELLED ANY DOUBT THAT THE
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TERRORISTS ARE PREPARED TO TARGET U.S. PERSONNEL, AND

PRUDENCE DICTATES THAT WE MUST ASSUME THAT FURTHER INCIDENTS MAY BE ATTEMPTED. THIS BEING THE CASE, YOU WILL WANT TO KEEP STAFFING LEVELS UNDER CONTINUOUS REVIEW. THERE IS NO THOUGHT HERE OF CLOSING THE EMBASSY OR SO DRASTICALLY REDUCING THE STAFF THAT IT IS UNABLE TO PERFORM ITS ESSENTIAL DUTIES. BUT SHOULD THE SECURITY THREAT AGAINST THE EMBASSY WORSEN, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CONSIDER FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE EMBASSY'S

VULNERABILITY AND ALLOW GREATER CONCENTRATION OF PROTECTIVE RESOURCES. WE WILL LOOK TO YOU

FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS ASPECT.

3. RE FINAL SENTENCE PARA 5, REFTEL (A), OF 17 POSITIONS STILL TO BE TEMPORARILY REDUCED, 11 ARE MILITARY. REDUCTION IN THESE POSITIONS NOW BEING CONSIDERED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF USG. WE SHALL REVIEW STATUS OF OTHER 6 AS WELL AND ATTEMPT TO EXPEDITE ACTION.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WITH RESPECT TO EMBASSY WATCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH REFTEL (A):

--- A. REGARDING THE PROVISION OF MINIMAL GUARD PROTECTION TO ALL EMBASSY EMPLOYEES, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS AS TO NATURE OF INCREASED PROTECTION OVER PRESENT LEVELS AND AS SPECIFIC BREAKDOWN AS POSSIBLE OF ADDITIONAL COSTS WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED.

--- B. CONCUR IN STAGGERING OF OFFICE HOURS AND RANDOM PATTERN OF ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

--- C. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS EMBASSY PRESENTLY HAS SECOND ARMORED CAR ON LOAN FROM RIO AND THAT EMBASSY BRASILIA IS AGREEABLE TO EXTENSION OF THE LOAN. MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES OF PERMANENT PROCUREMENT OF SECOND ARMORED VEHICLE AND WILL ADVISE.

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--- D. DEPARTMENT WILL REITERATE TO ALL POSTS IN SOUTH AMERICA THAT PERSONAL TRAVEL OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO BUENOS AIRES IS CURRENTLY PROHIBITED AND THAT SPECIFIC EXCEPTIONS FOR REASONS OF COMPASSION OR OTHER HARDSHIP MUST BE REFERRED TO EMBASSY B.A. FOR APPROVAL IN ADVANCE.

--- E. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT BELIEVE, LARGELY FOR REASONS MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 6, REFTEL (A), THAT GENERAL NOTICE OF

DISCOURAGEMENT OF TRAVEL TO PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS AND BUSINESSMEN SHOULD BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, SHOULD REMAIN ALERT TO RECOMMENDING A CHANGE IN ITS POSITION SHOULD SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO TRANSIENT FOREIGNERS, WORSEN.

--- F. WITH RESPECT TO LEASES FOR EMBASSY QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT SECURITY INSPECTION MUST BE CONDUCTED IN EACH CASE. ALSO, HAS EMBASSY EXPLORED POSSIBILITIES FOR GREATER COLOCATION OF EMBASSY FAMILIES IN APARTMENT COMPLEXES? POLICY WITH RESPECT TO REQUIRING NEW ARRIVALS TO RESIDE IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL (PARA 10, REFTEL (A), IS FULLY SUPPORTED HERE, BUT MORE STRINGENT

MEASURES ON LOCATION FOR SECURITY PURPOSES MAY BE NECESSARY AND EMBASSY SHOULD DEVELOP PLANS FOR THIS CONTINGENCY.

--- G. SINCE IT APPEARS FROM PARA 9(B), REFTEL (A), THAT GOA IS AGREEABLE TO ISSUING NON-DIPLOMATIC LICENSE PLATES, DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS THEY BE ISSUED TO EVERYONE ON A MANDATORY BASIS.

--- H. WITH RESPECT TO NUMBER OF PATROL CARS IN SERVICE, WE ASSUME EMBASSY REFERS TO CARS PROVIDED UNDER SECURITY GUARD CONTRACT. AGAIN, DEPARTMENT RELUCTANTLY MUST BE CONCERNED WITH INCREASED COSTS WHICH ARE INVOLVED AND WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS ON THIS ITEM.

--- I. WITH RESPECT TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOA CHIEF OF POLICE THAT ALL U.S. PERSONNEL SHOULD CARRY A WEAPON, DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO ISSUE A POLICY PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE NEAR FUTURE (SY OFFICER VARROS CAN PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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DETAILS OF THE POLICY FROM MEMORY). ESSENTIAL POINTS OF THE POLICY ARE THAT THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE A JUDGMENT IN EACH CASE AS TO WHETHER A PERSON SHOULD BE ISSUED A WEAPON, BASED ON FIVE FACTORS: (1) THE PERMISSION OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT SO AS TO NEGATE ANY PROBLEMS OF LIABILITY IN THE EVENT THE WEAPON IS USED; (2) THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE THREAT TO THE INDIVIDUAL; (3) THE COMPETENCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO USE THE WEAPON; (4) THE AGREEMENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE REGULARLY IN FIRING PRACTICE; (5) THE WILLINGNESS OF THE INDIVIDUAL TO USE THE WEAPON IN HIS OWN DEFENSE. THE POLICY WILL STRESS THAT DECISIONS TO ISSUE WEAPONS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION SHOULD BE ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. RE POSSIBLE HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE OF RESIDENCE

REPORTED REF (B), HAS ANY FURTHER INFORMATION BEEN
REPORTED? IT WOULD SEEM HERE THAT GOA SHOULD AT LEAST
BE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER FLIGHT WAS COMPLETELY
UNIDENTIFIED. INGERSOLL

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